

Amendment to the Claims:

Applicant combines Claims 1 and 7, thereby specifying certain thermoplastic resins and resin blends. The amendment does not add new matter as it is fully supported by Claims 1 and 7 as written prior to the current amendment.

With the combination, Applicant cancels Claim 7.

Applicant also changes the status of Claims 12 – 31 from “withdrawn” to “cancelled”. Applicant has cancelled these claims without prejudice, reserving the right to file a divisional or other continuing application that includes one or more of such claims.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An extruded, melt-mixed thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition comprising
 - (a) one or more superabsorbent polymer and
 - (b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a), the resin being a polyacrylic acid, ethylene and acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, t-butylacrylate and acrylic acid terpolymer, ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymer, ionomers of ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymers, ethylene, vinyl acetate and carbon monoxide terpolymer, ethylene and carbon monoxide copolymer, ethylene, acrylic acid and carbon monoxide terpolymers, ethylene, n-butylacrylate and carbon monoxide terpolymer or blends thereof.
2. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 having a melt draw down rate between about 5 and about 100 feet per minute and a melt tension between about 0.1 and about 10 under temperature and applied load conditions that give a melt flow rate of between about 0.1 and about 300 g/10 min.

3. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent polymer is prepared from water-soluble α,β -ethylenically unsaturated monomers.

4. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer of Claim 3 wherein the α,β -ethylenically unsaturated monomers is a monocarboxylic acid, a vinyl polycarboxylic acid, an acrylamide or mixtures thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent polymer is a cellulosic-graft copolymer, a starch-graft copolymer, a starch-g-poly(acrylic acid), a polyacrylamide; a polyvinyl alcohol, a poly(acrylic acid), a copolymer of sulfonic acid group containing monomer, or mixtures thereof.

6. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 5, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is crosslinked, partially neutralized, surface treated or combinations thereof.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 further comprising a surfactant.

9. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 further comprising a polyethylene, a copolymer of polyethylene, a polypropylene, a copolymer of polypropylene or polystyrene.

10. (Previously presented) A method for preparing an extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition comprising the step of extruding a combination of:

- (a) one or more superabsorbent polymer and
- (b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a).

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of combining (c) a surfactant.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Cancelled)
30. (Cancelled)
31. (Cancelled)
32. (Previously presented) An extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition comprising
 - (a) one or more superabsorbent polymer and
 - (b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a), the thermoplastic resin being a polyacrylic acid, ethylene and acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, t-butylacrylate and acrylic acid terpolymer, ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, vinyl acetate and carbon monoxide terpolymer, ethylene and carbon monoxide copolymer, ethylene, acrylic acid and carbon monoxide terpolymers, ethylene, n-butylacrylate and carbon monoxide terpolymer or a blend thereof), the composition having a melt draw down rate between about 5 and about 100 feet per minute and a melt tension between about 0.1 and about 10 under temperature and applied load conditions that give a melt flow rate of between about 0.1 and about 300 g/10 min.

33. (Previously presented) The extruded blend of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is present in an amount of greater than 50 parts by weight but less than or equal to 99 parts by weight based on weight of the blend.